

a working head (8, 9, 11) mounted in the body frame so as to be positioned in a second direction (Y) perpendicular to the first direction to punch the workpiece, thereby punching the workpiece along a direction which is parallel to the second direction,

wherein the first positioning device (53) and the second positioning device (69) are arranged in series in the first direction (X), thereby the workpiece (W) is transferred only in the first direction by one of the first positioning device and the second positioning device; and the workpiece is not transferred in the second direction (Y); and

wherein the first positioning device (53) and the second positioning device (69) are constructed in a manner such that the first positioning device and the second positioning device may alternately transfer the workpiece (W) in the first direction (X) during punching operation, thereby punching the workpiece along another direction which is parallel to the first direction.

12. (Amended) A punching machine according to Claim 13, wherein the workpiece (W) is sheet shaped material uncoiled from a coiled material.

13. (Amended) A punching machine according to Claim 10, wherein the first positioning device (53) is located at one side of the working head (8, 9, 11) on the table (33, 35); and

wherein the second positioning device is located at the other side of the working head on the table so that the working head is located between the first positioning device (53) and the second positioning device (69) so as to be sandwiched by the first positioning device and the second positioning device.

14. (Amended) A punching machine according to Claim 10, wherein the first positioning device (53) includes a first clamp (53C, 53D) to clamp a first margin of the workpiece (W) in the first direction;

wherein the first positioning device (53) further includes a second clamp (53A, 53B) to clamp a second margin opposite to the first margin of the workpiece wherein the second clamp is fixedly mounted to the first positioning device; and

wherein the first clamp is movably mounted to the first positioning device in the second direction (Y) so that the first clamp can be moved to approach the second clamp in the second direction thereby enabling the clamping of the workpiece even though a size of the workpiece in the second direction varies.

15. (Amended) A punching machine according to Claim 16, wherein the first clamp (53C, 53D) is comprised of a plurality of clamps; and the second clamp (53A, 53B) is comprised of a plurality of clamps.

16. (Amended) A punching machine according to Claim 14, wherein the second positioning device (69) includes a third clamp (69C, 69D) to clamp the first margin of the workpiece (W) in the first direction;

wherein the second positioning device (69) further includes a fourth clamp (69A, 69B) to clamp the second margin opposite to the first margin of the workpiece wherein the fourth clamp is fixedly mounted to the second positioning device; and